



## **Little Humboldt Herd Management Area Elko County, Nevada**



### **Location/Habitat**

The Little Humboldt Herd Management Area (HMA) is located approximately 80 miles northwest of Elko, Nevada. Geology in this area is typical of that found throughout Nevada with north, south trending mountain ranges separated by wide valley bottoms. The highest elevation in the HMA is 6,900 feet in elevation, with the lowest points being found in the valley bottoms at about 5,700 feet. Average precipitation is approximately 8-10 inches in the HMA. Most of this precipitation comes during the winter months in the form of snow. This creates the cold-temperate desert of which the Little Humboldt HMA is a part. Temperatures can be extreme. They range from a high of near 100 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer months to a low of 15 degrees below zero in the winter.

The HMA provides habitat for mule deer, California bighorn sheep and pronghorn antelope on a seasonal or yearlong basis.

There are approximately 350 species of vertebrate wildlife which occur in northeastern Nevada. The HMA provides habitat for many of these species on a seasonal or yearlong basis in association with sagebrush steppe, mountain brush and riparian habitat types that occur in the HMA.

The Little Humboldt HMA overlaps the southeast arm of the Little Humboldt River Wilderness Study Area.

The Little Humboldt HMA lies entirely within the Castle Ridge Pasture of Little Humboldt Allotment. There is one livestock operator on the Little Humboldt Allotment.

### **Vegetation**

The HMA supports vegetation typical of the Great Basin region which consists of shrubs such as sagebrush, rabbitbrush and whitesage and many species of native grasses such as Indian ricegrass, bottlebrush squirreltail, Sandberg bluegrass and bluebunch wheatgrass.

### **Herd Description**

The Little Humboldt HMA wild horses are descendants of domestic ranch, farm and homestead stock. There was a large ranch in the area of the HMA that raised Calvary remounts for the US Army at the turn of the century. Local ranches also had large numbers of domestic horses in the area all through out the 1900s. The horses in the Little Humboldt HMA are a mix of several common breeds.

Horses within this HMA are quite large and have good conformation. The primary colors of horses found in this HMA are: sorrel, bay, chestnut, and roan, and a few blacks,

palominos, and paints. The Little Humboldt HMA has shown to be a productive area for wild horses:

- Since 1971, there have been four (4) BLM authorized removals with an estimated total of 480 wild horses removed from the HMA.
- Appropriate Management Level for the Little Humboldt HMA is 48-80 animals.



Horses on the Little Humboldt HMA.

Photo by Jason Spence